



City of Newburgh

City Manager's Priority Projects Report

June 2007



Courthouse Update

The design team – MH&E – Doug Traver of Hill International and City Staff have been meeting regularly with the Office of Court Administration to review plans and discuss issues ranging from the placement of security cameras to door hardware and other aspects of the project. The result of that has been that we are all on the same page, working as a team, and feeling confident about the quality of the design and the ultimate product – a completed, functional, courthouse facility.

The lower level has been redesigned so it can serve both as a holding facility for prisoners awaiting their appearances before a judge as well as the City police department's lock-up, a move that will allow for increased operational efficiencies, safety, and security.

The plans will be 90% complete by Monday, June 11 and will be forwarded to Hill for cost estimating, a process which should be completed by or during the week of June 25th.

Plans should be 100% complete by the end of June.

Plans, bid documents are expected to be completed and ready to be put out to bid by the last week in July. Bids will be opened, reviewed and recommendations will be made on or before the end of September so that construction can begin in the fall. The project is expected to be completed by the end of November/early December with move-in planned for the slow court time in December 2008.

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Revaluation Update

Property owners may have received or will soon receive a written property report, called a data mailer. This letter will share the information collected on individual properties with its owner. Property owners are asked in the letter whether or not information was missed.

Valuation modeling will begin in the fall and in January of 2008, property

owners will be given preliminary information about where their assessments will be going, and the revaluation team will have informal talks with them to come to an understanding.

The first tax bills using the new assessments will not be issued until 2008.

An ad-hoc Revaluation Advisory Committee has been created to help maximize citizen input in

the process, includes Mike Fogarty, Roxie Royal, Pauline Dillard, Ed Weber, Christine Bello, Rene Campos, Anne Ridgeway Thomas, and Virgen Segarra.

The committee will be offering recommendations to CLT and the Assessor about public outreach and will monitor the process during each of its phases.



Master Plan

The consultant has given the City a draft version of the Master Plan. Since then, City has revised the housing, economic and governance chapters. Staff is currently revising the natural environment chapter. The remaining chapters are expected to be revised within the next few weeks. A complete revision is expected for public review in July.

Fishing Pier

A recent clarification regarding the funds secured by Congressman Hinchey's office through a Member's Item (Transportation and Community System Preservation Program) indicates these funds cannot be used for the construction of the pier and are limited to construction of roads.

The City cannot proceed with the project until a

new funding source for the pier has been identified; because we must construct the pier prior to reconstructing First Street.

There is a new round of grants that are being explored which may address this issue.

In addition City staff is working to establish if there is a time limit on the member item funds.

West Street Medical Park

Several steps have been taken to obtain a release of any remaining environmental restrictions on the property.

One remaining contaminated piece of the property, the ash pit in the southwest corner, has been segregated by a lot line change approved by the planning board. The parcel is now owned by the City, allowing us to apply for remediation by DEC under the Environmental Restoration Program (ERP). The ERP will pay for 90% of remediation costs and 100% of the cleanup required on adjacent parcels. This cleanup will allow for its

future development separate from the rest of the West Street project.

With the ERP application demonstrating the City's plans for the ash pit, we expect a release shortly from DEC under the joint Voluntary Cleanup Agreement for the five (5) development parcels. This will remove any encumbrance to financing and developing the properties.

Simultaneously the U. S. Economic Development Administration (EDA) has amended the grant agreement with the City and the IDA to allow the bulk of the grant funds to

go to environmental cleanup and infrastructure. The incubator will be done by a private developer under a land lease with the IDA. We are developing a land lease for EDA approval. Once the lease is approved, the IDA will issue a Request for Proposals to potential developers for the construction of the incubator building.

The amendment to the grant and EDA approval of the lease will allow the City to begin submitting vouchers to EDA for reimbursement under the grant. We expect this to take place within the next 60 days.

Newburgh Landing

A contract amendment has been made allowing the City of Newburgh to use the remaining funds from the 1999 grant to repair and replace the bulkhead at Newburgh Landing.

The initial construction start date was delayed because Office of Parks and Recreation and Historic Preservation questioned compliance with the MWBE requirements, a few days prior to commencement of the work .

That issue has been resolved and the work is ongoing. We had targeted a June 30 completion date, however that may be extended, weather permitting.

Tyrone Crabb Park

The Tyrone Crabb Park Committee has approved the concept drawing and identifying areas for improvement and types of materials for the various project components.

In April the Committee visited the site and with a group of youth volunteers from the 21st Century Learning collaborative marked out the design and made comments.

The planning committee determined that it was imperative to the success

of this project to hire a professional landscape architect to actualize the drawing and manage the construction of this park.

In May 2007, the City Council approved the hiring of a landscape architect to actualize the drawings and manage construction of the project.

Schematic Plan: Fleshes out scale, proportion, budget and final design of the project based on the conceptual design.

Design Development Plan:

Fleshes out all building materials; finalize fountain selection/design; and final design drawings.

Construction documents:

Include preparation of engineering drawings; grading plans; utilities/lighting plan and all technical specifications which would be used as the legal basis for the bid.



Xavier Lunan Park

During the summer of 2006, the City removed 64 Courtney Ave., which had caught fire and was severely damaged.

Much of the park was also damaged due to fire including two trees and play equipment.

City staff worked with local children to vision the

restored park space. This included an expanded, open and flexible inter-generational space.

Work consisted of segregating the equipment by age appropriateness, expanding picnicking area and creating a flexible play space (asphalt pad).

Work will be completed in

June 2007. The new rubber play surface and fencing are left to be constructed.

The Council and community will receive a notice for the grand opening this summer.

Xavier Lunan is a location for the summer Arts in Parks program.



Gidney Avenue Basketball Courts

City council approved the bid for construction of the Gidney Ave. Basketball courts in May 2007.

Construction is scheduled to begin in June 2007. It is anticipated that construction will be completed by August 2007.

Sporting activities have been rescheduled to the Delano Hitch Basketball Courts until construction is completed.